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April 30, 2001 LB 305, 543, 708

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's...

SENATOR RAIKES: There is the...I mentioned...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...LB 708, which was Senator Kristensen's bill, and in fact that bill has not been ignored by the committee. At one point, we had that incorporated as a part of the LB 305 package. We later decided to take it out, because, again, the cost became a factor. And it was felt in the committee that this was not focused as specifically on teacher salaries as the program that we do have in LB 305.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll quit for now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Continued debate on AM1663 to LB 543, Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' AM1663. I think that we shouldn't look at this as an either/or situation. As Senator Thompson stated, this is a recruitment tool, and that's completely different from valuing our teachers at this point. Senator Wehrbein, in LB 305 there are several different aspects. Let me go through, quickly, the main aspects of LB 305. There's a salary adjustment incentive which gives \$2,000 to teachers in their first four years of teaching. There are budget exceptions for schools who have not spent...or, who are...who can't spend what they are getting in state allocations. There's a performance evaluation pilot program so that we can begin to look at teachers and deal with their performance and be able to evaluate in a across-the-board way, so that we're not looking at them subjectively. There's teacher salary enhancement allowance the second year that would put \$100 for adjusted weighted formula students. There's growth in transportation and special receipts allowance. There's a growth rate in aid formula for community colleges. And there are administration expenses and additional contributions to teacher